The Guardian Scholars Program offers support to all current and former foster youth enrolled at UC San Diego. Through friendly and informal quarterly meetings and workshops, UC San Diego Guardian Scholar mentors provide community building, problem solving, life counseling and encouragement.

**BENEFITS**

The Guardian Scholars Program is a working partnership between the private sector and public agencies designed to support our students beyond the boundaries of a traditional scholarship. Program benefits include:

- orientation to university life
- priority registration after the first term of enrollment
- opportunity to live on campus year round
- student employment opportunities
- assistance with financial aid applications
- life skills counseling
- career planning
- a recognition event for scholars and program supporters

**ELIGIBILITY**

Students admitted to UC San Diego who have been in foster care, or are currently in care, are eligible. UC San Diego Guardian Scholars are expected to enroll as full-time students (at least 12 units per quarter) and participate fully in all aspects of the program.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

In addition to the support services listed above, you may be eligible for scholarship monies to help you pay for your college education. Follow these steps to ensure maximum consideration for financial aid:

1. File the FAFSA between January 1 and March 2 prior to fall enrollment each year. If you were in foster care any time after your 13th birthday, you will file as an independent student. If you are not eligible to file a FAFSA but qualify for AB540, you should submit the California Dream Application. The FAFSA and California Dream Application are used for financial aid and Cal Grant at UCSD.

2. Make sure your high school (new freshmen) or community college (transfer students) submits your GPA verification form to the California Student Aid Commission by March 2 for Cal Grant consideration.

3. Apply for the Chafee Grant. If you were in care any time between the ages of 16-18, you may be eligible for up to $5,000 per year until the age of 23. Go to chafee.csac.ca.gov.

If you live in:

- San Diego County: apply by March 2 to the Promises2Kids Foundation Guardian Scholarship promises2kids.org. Other scholarships: Just in Time for Foster Youth College-Bound program jitfosteryouth.org, Fostering Opportunities Dollars for Scholars mydollar.org • San Diego Foundation sdfoundation.org.

- Orange County: apply to Orangewood Children’s Foundation Guardian Scholarship orangewoodfoundation.org.

- Los Angeles County: apply to United Friends of the Children college sponsorship program unitedfriends.org

- Alameda, Contra Costa, Merced, Napa, Sacramento, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, or Yolo counties: apply to Fostering Futures scholarship program fosteringfuturesfoundation.org.

- Students throughout California may apply to Foster Care to Success fc2success.org (formerly the Orphan Foundation).
**Washington Monthly** has ranked UC San Diego #1 in the nation for five consecutive years based on how well we promote social mobility, research and public service.

We are a student-centered, research-focused, service-oriented, public university; and this is reflected in the many powerful contributions our faculty, researchers, students and alumni have made to our region, nation and the world.

Visit admissions.ucsd.edu for more information about applying to UC San Diego.

**EXPLORATIONS:** UCSD has a lot of interesting minors. I looked into that, I was going to do a visual arts minor here. I do really like the art on campus, the Stuart Collection.

**ADVICE:** I suggest talking to somebody who has your major. I think it would’ve been really convenient to talk to an engineering major, because they could have told me what to take in high school.

**SPENCER**
2nd year
Earl Warren College
Aerospace engineering

**TASHA**
3rd year
Thurgood Marshall College
Ethnic Studies

**EXPLORATIONS:** I had to think about the path I wanted to take so that I make sure I’m secure and that I graduate. If I want to minor in literature and writing later on, I could do that.

**ADVICE:** I know my whole life was based off just surviving and just getting by. So I want to be able to find my balance and at the same time enjoy doing it. That’s the point of finding a balance, to enjoy life.